United Nations E/AC.51/2013/L.4/Add.9

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
25 June 2013
English
Original: French

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Fifty-third session
3-28 June 2013
Agenda item 7
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-third session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Ms. Hélène **Petit** (France)

Addendum

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015
(*Item 3 (a)*)

Report of the Secretary-General on consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Programme 16
Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

1. At its 13th meeting, on 13 June 2013, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 (A/68/75).

2. Representatives of the Secretary-General introduced the consolidated report and responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. Appreciation and support were expressed for programme 16, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 (A/67/6/Rev.1) and for the work of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in the region, which is home to two thirds of the world's population.

4. A view was expressed that activities should focus on the practical needs of countries concerned, in particular the least developed countries, including infrastructure financing, disaster risk reduction, poverty eradication, social security,

Please recycle

ageing, health and security. In the context of the overall work of ESCAP on global issues in the region, such as good governance, economic cooperation, climate change and food security, there was a need to carry out forward-looking analysis in those areas and to assist Member States so that efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) would be country-led.

5. Information was sought on the outcome of the final review of the Commission's conference structure, including its subsidiary structure, which was undertaken at the Commission's sixty-ninth session.

6. Clarification was sought as to what specific changes had been made to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015, taking into account the decisions emanating from General Assembly resolution 66/288, by which the Assembly endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want". The question was also raised as to whether all of the regional commissions had modified their respective biennial programme plans.

7. One delegation emphasized the importance of ensuring that the activities of ESCAP would be in conformity with intergovernmental mandates, and in this regard highlighted activities with regard to "Delivering as one", a concept that was still under consideration by Member States.

8. Some delegations expressed their concern over the Secretariat's use of terms that do not have intergovernmental mandate under the section "other information", and emphasized that the narrative in the programme budget should be based on the approved narrative in the Strategic Framework. Those delegations considered that the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly should address this matter within the framework of its consideration of the proposed programme budget for 2014-2015.

9. Some delegations sought clarification on various aspects of the methodology of the results-based logical framework of ESCAP, including details on changes in indicators of achievement and an explanation of the linkages between the programme budget and the plan of action.

10. One delegation sought clarification regarding efforts to improve geographical representation and regarding available resources, both assessed and extrabudgetary, which was not normally predictable. With regard to available resources, clarification was sought as to whether the requirements for the mandates to be implemented by ESCAP or driven by budgetary constraints had been reflected therein. Another delegation noted that budgetary issues were not within the purview of the Committee.

11. A delegation expressed the view that in future biennial programme plans, under component 3 of subprogramme 8, Subregional activities for development, a new expected accomplishment and indicator of achievement should be included as follows: expected accomplishments: (c) Strengthened intraregional cooperation and integration for the promotion of inclusive and sustainable development, including through South-South cooperation; indicators of achievement: (c) Increase in the number of joint intraregional initiatives, programmes and projects between North and Central Asia with or through the ESCAP subregional office for North and Central Asia.

Conclusions and recommendations

12. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the changes to the narrative of programme 16, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, as set out in the report of the Secretary-General (A/68/75) and in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 (A/68/6 (Sect. 19)).**